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PA-GIFTS SKEO 5-31

BY JIM ANDERSON

WASHINGTON (UPI) -- SHEIKH YAMANI, THE SAUDI OIL MINISTER, IS IN THE HABIT OF GIVING TWO CRISP \$100 BILLS. HIS FELLOW MINISTER, PRINCE SULTAN IBN, IS MORE GENEROUS -- HANDING OUT A PAIR OF SWISS WATCHES WORTH SOME \$10,000.

THOSE ARE SOME OF THE GIFTS RECEIVED BY STATE DEPARTMENT SECURITY AGENTS AND GUARDED OFFICIALS FROM OIL-PRODUCING COUNTRIES, PRINCIPALLY IRAN AND SAUDI ARABIA, DURING 1978.

GIFTS FROM FOREIGN OFFICIALS HAVE TO BE LISTED IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER. ANY WORTH MORE THAN \$50 MUST BE TURNED OVER TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT PROTOCOL OFFICE (OR THE U.S. TREASURY, IN THE CASE OF THE \$100 BILLS.)

THE GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION, THE GOVERNMENT'S PURCHASING AGENCY, STORES THE VALUABLE GIFTS, PUTS THEM ON DISPLAY OR DISPOSES OF THEM BY AUCTION.

LAST YEAR'S GIFT LIST INDICATES THAT PRINCE SULTAN IBN, SAUDI ARABIA'S MINISTER OF AVIATION AND DEFENSE, IS THE MOST GENEROUS FOREIGN DONOR.

HE GAVE WILLIAM O'ROURKE, A STATE DEPARTMENT SECURITY AGENT, A MAN'S WATCH ESTIMATED TO BE WORTH \$6,000 AND A WOMAN'S WATCH WORTH \$4,000.

BOTH WERE ACCEPTED, ACCORDING TO THE REPORT, "BECAUSE NON-ACCEPTANCE MAY HAVE PROVED TO BE AN EMBARRASSMENT TO THE U.S. GOVERNMENT." THE WATCHES WERE THEN HANDLED OVER TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT.

SECRETARY OF STATE CYRUS VANCE AND HIS WIFE DIDN'T RECEIVE NEARLY AS MUCH AS O'ROURKE, ACCORDING TO THE PUBLISHED REPORT.

THE VANCES GOT AN ESTIMATED \$6,700 IN GIFTS DURING 1978, INCLUDING A \$1,500 WATCH FROM SAUDI KING KHALID AND A \$1,700 GOLD, JEWEL-ENCRUSTED DAGGER FROM MOROCCAN KING HASSAN. THE GIFTS WERE TURNED OVER TO THE GOVERNMENT.

YAMANI, THE GIVER OF \$100 BILLS, ALSO HANDLED OUT SEVERAL WATCHES TO SECURITY AGENTS ASSIGNED TO HIM IN THE UNITED STATES.

THE MOST INTRIGUING GIFTS WERE RECEIVED BY THE CIA. ONE AGENT GOT \$1,000 IN CASH FROM A GRATEFUL, ANONYMOUS DONOR. THE MONEY, ACCORDING TO THE FEDERAL REGISTER, WAS SENT TO THE TREASURY.

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